

attention." Jefferson had retired to his house outside the city. ' Washington dispatched to him a note showing an irritation never before seen in him, and asking his immediate presence. Jefferson replied in one of equal stiffness, couched in the third person, a mode of address he had never hitherto used towards Washington, assigning "a fever for the past few nights" as the cause of his leaving the city, and promising "that nothing- but absolute inability would prevent his being in town to-morrow." Despite this personal friction, the pacific policy advocated by Jefferson during Washington's absence prevailed. The Cabinet decided that the legal questions involved should be referred "to persons learned in the laws;" and the British Minister was, in addition, informed that the vessel in controversy would not depart until the President's determination should be made known.*

Genet's intemperance of language continued. His insolence reached a pitch which made it necessary for the Cabinet to take up the question of dealing with him. They agreed unanimously that the French government should be requested to recall him; but on the question how the communication should be made, there was the usual division of opinion. Jefferson was for "expressing that desire with great delicacy; the others were for peremptory terms." The Cabinet met for three successive days. Every question broached called forth the warmest opposition from the one faction or the other. Much, however, was accomplished in spite of the incessant wrangling. Genet was to be informed that his recall had been asked—a victory for Hamilton; but no appeal was to be made to the people by a publication of the Genet correspondence—a victory for Jefferson. In general, more stringent rules were unanimously adopted for the maintenance of neutrality between the belligerents. Jefferson was instructed to draw up a letter asking the recall of Genet. His rough draft became, without a change, the official communication of the Cabinet. It takes high rank

* The *Little Democrat* did, however, put to sea two days later, in disregard of the assurance Jefferson claimed to have received from Genet.